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**PATENT**

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Hildebrand, et al	)	Atty Dkt No:	6680.034
	)		
Serial No: 10/022,066	)	Examiner:	Not Yet Assigned
	)		
Filed: December 18, 2001	)	Art Unit:	1643
	)		
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS	)		
FOR THE PRODUCTION OF	)		
SOLUBLE MHC ANTIGENS	)		
AND USES THEREOF	)		

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Applicant herein seeks to amend the above referenced application as shown below, prior to the first examination and action of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

**In the Specification:**

Please amend paragraph [0001] as submitted herein below in clean replacement form. Following the Remarks section is a marked-up version of paragraph [0001] illustrating the changes made thereto. No substantive changes have been made in the application, and such amendment does not introduce any new matter into the application.